

Remarks to the Press by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and Greek Foreign Minister Bitsios after their meeting at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York on Saturday morning, August 14, 1976

As you know, the Security Council is in the midst of debating the issue that has brought the Greek Foreign Minister to New York and I will have to have other consultations in addition to the one that I had with my colleague, Mr. Bitsios. I can say, however, now that the United States Government appreciates the fact that the Government of Greece has chosen a peaceful method for settling the dispute and has initiated peaceful procedures that we hope will lead to resolutions of the difficulties. We believe in urging all of the parties that this dispute should be settled without unilateral action and without pressures and on this basis a fair, negotiated solution seems to us attainable. The talks, as always, were conducted in a very cordial and constructive spirit.

Question: (inaudible)

The Secretary: I beg your pardon ...

Question: What type of

The Secretary: As I said, I have to consult the other party. I will be in touch again with Minister Bitsios this morning. I have had other consultations, but the basic principle we pursued is that the settlement should be done on a peaceful basis and without pressure or unilateral action.

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Question: Does this mean that you don't favor any resolution at the Security Council, Sir?

The Secretary: No, we believe that there is a resolution that can be negotiated that will encompass these principles. We do favor a Security Council resolution and, as I pointed out, we appreciate the efforts of the Greek Government to find a peaceful solution.

Question: (inaudible)

The Secretary: I have stated repeatedly that the settlement of Cyprus must be done in a manner that respects the sense of dignity and self-respect of both communities. The present conditions of the Greek community and the present dividing line cannot be the basis of a permanent settlement.

Question: Sir, .. (inaudible)

Bitsios: I have briefed the Secretary on the reasons which brought me to New York with special emphasis on the speech of in Athens after the seismic ship operations in the Aegean. I know that Mr. Kissinger is working with other members of the Security Council towards a resolution which can help in solving this dispute in a peaceful way. This is in the desire of the Greek Government. (inaudible comments)

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Question (to Secretary Kissinger): Secretary Kissinger, does the United States have any direct role to play in the mediation?

The Secretary: Well, I don't know what direct role means. We are talking to the Foreign Ministers of both Greece and Turkey; we are in close touch with our European allies in seeing whether a mutually acceptable resolution can be worked out; and we will continue to use all our efforts to prevent a conflict and to find a solution that is based on justice.

(Thank you very much)